

**McDougall, WILLIAM, F.R.S.** *An Introduction to Social Psychology.*

Tenth edition. London: Methuen; 1916; pp. 431; price 5s. net. DR. McDOUGALL is generally recognised as one of our most distinguished psychologists, and the present work—an introduction to the social sciences in general based on a belief in the fundamental importance of instinct—is doubtless his best-known and most influential book. He has now added a chapter, covering 40 pages, on the sex instinct, with which he had previously dealt only summarily as the “Instinct of Reproduction,” a term he has, very properly, been induced to reject. In accordance with his general doctrine, and indeed with the most widely received opinion, he regards the sexual instinct as single and innate. He thus objects to the theory of Moll which involves two components in the sex instinct, and with Moll he associates, incorrectly, the present reviewer, who has always rejected Moll’s theory precisely on the same ground. Sex love in the complete sense is, however, regarded by Dr. McDougall as a complex sentiment, involving a normal combination with the sexual instinct of the parental instinct, and this not only in the attitude of the woman towards her lover, but in his attitude towards her. Modesty (in the sense of pudor) the author is inclined to regard as a form of bashfulness, based on a conflict between the instinct of abasement and the instinct of self-display. About the eighth year is considered the most frequent age for the normal appearance of the sex instinct (though it may be earlier), and the coincidence of the first appearance of modesty at this age is regarded as confirming this conclusion.

The author’s attitude towards Freud is cautious and discriminating; he carefully refrains from the common fallacy of importing prejudice into this discussion, but he is inclined to reject some of the most characteristic Freudian doctrines as only holding good of neurotic subjects, and he points out, as others have done, that Freud generalises too easily. Dr. McDougall accepts the “sublimation” of sex energy to higher ends, but on the topic of sex hygiene he has nothing new or profitable to say. He wishes to utter a warning against “faith in the redeeming power of sex knowledge”—a faith not held by any whose opinion carries weight—and he seems to be content with the conclusion that “knowledge may be more dangerous than ignorance.” On this topic the reader will find Northcote’s equally cautious but more progressive opinions, in “Christianity and Sex Problems,” more profitable to study. Sexual hygiene is, however, a little outside the scope of a book which possesses a value in the discussion of fundamental psychological questions not to be questioned.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

**Grant, MADISON.** *The Passing of the Great Race, or The Racial Basis of European History.* London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd.; 1917; pp. 246; charts 3; maps 4; price 8s. 6d. net.

THIS is an interesting and readable book, but the judicious reader will need to exercise some caution before accepting all the views and statements contained in it. Mr. Grant treads the mazes of ethnological theory with a confidence which we are not always able to share. Few problems are more difficult or more obscure than the ethnology of Europe, and, though substantial progress has been made in the elucidation of this fascinating subject, there are large departments of it where we possess rather more or less plausible theories than assured knowledge. The main contentions of this volume are as follows:—(1) That race and heredity are the great determining factors in the history and fortunes of nations, the influence of environment being quite subsidiary. (2) That the three great races of Europe are the Nordic Race—fair-haired, blue-eyed, long-limbed, long-headed, the race of explorers, warriors, governors; the Mediterranean Race—slender, dark, light bony framework, relatively feeble muscular development, long-headed, a race of large artistic and

inventive endowment; the Alpine Race, of medium colour and stature, round-headed, a race of agriculturalists and industrialists. (3) That the Nordic Race, originating somewhere in the Baltic basin and exhibiting some of its most perfect types in Sweden, Denmark and some districts of Northern Germany, is "the Great Race," the natural rulers of mankind. (4) That this "Great Race" is in danger of perishing by alien admixture—miscegenation—and the advance of democratic ideas, which tend to eliminate the aristocrats of the human race, and to bring the baser elements to the front.

It is evident that these views owe much to the theories of Count De Gobineau, although we have failed to find any reference to this well-known authority, whose name does not appear in the index of this work or in the list of authorities. De Gobineau's views have been much in evidence during the war, and are supposed to have exercised considerable influence upon the mentality of the German people, who have readily absorbed the pleasing doctrine that they are the natural leaders and governors of men. The theory that "the blond barbarian" from the North possesses a prescriptive overlordship over other races is hardly likely to be ultimately sustained. No race ever exhibited greater military genius or more talent for government than the ancient Romans, and it is highly improbable that they were to any great extent of Nordic Race. Mr. Grant does, indeed, adopt the view, which is certainly very hypothetical, that "the traditions of the Eternal City, its love of organisation, of law, and military efficiency, as well as the Roman ideals of family life, loyalty and truth, point clearly to a Nordic rather than to a Mediterranean origin." This is to fit the facts to the theory rather than the theory to the facts. Spain at one time exhibited brilliant gifts for war and government, but, although there are Gothic elements in Spain, the main racial basis is undoubtedly Iberian or Mediterranean. The success of the Anglo-Saxon peoples is probably due less to the fact that they possess large Nordic elements than to the fact that they are a fortunate mixture of diverse racial qualities which happily reinforce and strengthen each other. Genius, talent and success in life are certainly not more largely distributed amongst the fair-haired inhabitants of these islands than amongst their darker brethren and sisters. Norway, Sweden and Denmark, where the Nordic Race is found in the greatest purity, have played a subordinate part in history compared with France, England, Italy and Spain. De Gobineau's theory is a good example of a premature and ill-sustained generalisation.

Mr. Grant's account of the three main European races contains much interesting matter, although we cannot share his confidence in many of his conclusions. The Alpine Race is distinguished by a round face and a correspondingly round skull. It is of "stocky" build and moderately short stature. It has dark hair and usually dark but sometimes greyish eyes. Its original habitat was Iran, the Pamirs, the Hindu Kush and Asia Minor. In Europe it has been long in contact with the Nordics and has undergone much Nordic admixture. "Many populations now considered good Germans, such as the majority of the Würtembergers, Bavarians, Austrians, Swiss and Tyrolese, are merely Teutonised Alpines." The Alpines occupy chiefly Central Europe, including Central France. They have only very slightly affected the populations of Spain and the British Islands. The Mediterranean Race is a relatively small, light-boned, long-skulled race, of brunet colour. Its original habitat is found on both shores of the Mediterranean Sea, whence it spread north and west. To-day it constitutes a substantial part of the population of the British Islands, the great bulk of the population of the Iberian peninsula, nearly one-third of the population of France, Liguria, Italy south of the Apennines, all the Mediterranean coasts and islands, and to some extent Greece and the eastern coasts of the Balkan peninsula.

The Nordic Race has the following characteristics :—Blondness, wavy hair, blue eyes, fair skin, high, narrow, straight nose, great stature, and a long skull. Its original habitat was the Scandinavian peninsula and the adjoining shores of the Baltic. To-day it overspreads portions of Northern Germany, the Netherlands, Northern France, the British Islands, and parts of Russia. The Celts were a branch of the Nordic stock, but much confusion has arisen from the confusion of the Celtic language with a Celtic Race. Mr. Grant says truly : "As to the so-called 'Celtic Race' the fantastic inapplicability of the term is at once apparent when we consider that those populations on the borders of the Atlantic Ocean who to-day speak Celtic dialects, are divided into three groups, each one showing in great purity the characters of one of the three entirely distinct human sub-species found in Europe. To class together the Breton peasant, with his round Alpine skull; the little, long-skulled, brunet Welshman of the Mediterranean Race, and the tall, blond, light-eyed Scottish Highlander of pure Nordic Race, in a single group labelled 'Celtic,' is obviously impossible. These peoples have neither physical, mental, nor cultural characteristics in common."

Mr. Grant thinks the Nordic Race is in danger of perishing by alien admixture, and that the problem is acute in America. Democracy tends to level classes, to ignore racial distinctions, and to depress the natural leaders of men. "We Americans," he says, "must realise that the altruistic ideals which have controlled our social development during the past century, and the maudlin sentimentalism that has made America 'an asylum for the oppressed' are sweeping the nation towards a racial abyss." That there is some truth in such views cannot be questioned, but the influence of democracy from the genetic point of view is too large a question to be adequately discussed in a review. It is a point of view, however, which should not be overlooked by reformers and constitution-makers. Nature will not be denied and democracy will only permanently prevail if it knows how to choose its leaders wisely.

J. A. LINDSAY.

**Dawson, E. RUMLEY.** *The Causation of Sex in Man.* H. K. Lewis and Co.; 1917; pp. xiv. + 226; demy 8vo.; 7s. 6d. net.

THIS is the second edition of a book first published in 1909, and is considerably improved both by the addition of new evidence in favour of the author's hypothesis, and by the omission of some of the blemishes by which the first edition was disfigured. The essence of the hypothesis is as follows :—Ova produced from the right ovary give rise to boys, those from the left ovary to girls; normally the two ovaries ovulate alternately, at or about the menstrual period, with the result that after the first child is born, it is possible to forecast the sex of subsequent children by counting the number of menstrual periods that intervene between the birth of the previous child and the beginning of a fresh pregnancy. When menstruation has a regular 28-day period, this can be done by counting the months, since there are very nearly thirteen such periods in the year. Therefore if a boy is born in a particular month this year, a child of the same mother born in the same month next year should be a girl, or in the same month two years later a boy.

A good deal of evidence—some of it good and some of it very weak—is marshalled in favour of the hypothesis, and the obvious objection that children of both sexes may be born after one-sided ovariectomy is answered by producing evidence that ovariectomy is frequently incomplete, and may be followed by the regeneration of functional ovarian tissue. Undoubtedly in some families the children are of the sexes to be expected on the hypothesis according to the dates of their birth, and when exceptions occur, as they very frequently do, they are ascribed to irregularity in the menstrual or ovulation periods.